GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Ashram for Widows/Old People
Sonkar Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any provision to set up and maintain Ashram for widows/old people and to provide them basic facilities;
(b) if so, the details thereof including Uttar Pradesh along with funds released by the Government in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year; State/UT-wise;
(c) the laid down norms for setting up of new Ashram;
(d) whether the Government proposes to set up new Ashram for widows/old people, and
(e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development do not provide grants to set up and maintain Ashrams for widows/old people. However, the Ministry is implementing two shelter based Central Sector Schemes namely viz. Swadhar and Short Stay Home for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances who are without any social and economic support. The main objectives of the scheme is to provide primary needs of shelter, food, clothing and medical care. The scheme also provides for skill training and counselling. The implementing agencies eligible for assistance are social welfare / women and child welfare,
Departments of State Governments, Women Development Corporations and Voluntary Organisations.

The number of Swadhar and Short Stay Homes State and UT wise along with the number of inmates is at Annexure − I. Details of the grants released to the implementing agencies under these two schemes in the last three years and current year including Uttar Pradesh are at Annexure − II and Annexure − III.

Apart from Ministry of Women & Child Development, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which grants-in-aid are given for running and maintenance of inter-alia, Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units, Multi Facility Care Centre for Older Widows etc. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment also does not provide grants to set up and maintain Ashrams for widows/old people. Further Section 19 (1) of the Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, mandates that the State Government may establish and maintain such number of Old Age Homes at accessible places as it may deem necessary in a phased manner beginning with atleast one in each district to accommodate minimum of 150 senior citizens who are indigent. Pursuant to this provision, it is for the State Governments to make assessment of requirement of Old Age Homes keeping in view the number of senior citizens in each district.

The number of old age homes under Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the details of grants released to the implementing agencies including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and current year are at Annexure − IV.
(b) to (e) Does not arise.
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